

# STATE OF COLORADO

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Dedicated to protecting and improving the health and environment of the people of Colorado

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Colorado Department  
of Public Health  
and Environment

## **MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Well Owners within Colorado flood areas  
**FROM:** Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment  
**DATE:** September 19, 2013  
**SUBJECT:** Sampling private wells in flood impacted areas

The September 2013 Colorado flood waters may be contaminated from industrial and domestic waste. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) recommends that private well owners in flood impacted areas have their well water tested to ensure harmful bacteria are not present in the well.

For flood purposes, CDPHE recommends the "Annual Colorado Package" offered by the Lab Services Division which tests for coliform bacteria and nitrate/nitrite. For information on ordering sampling bottles and sampling instructions, visit the Lab Services Division website at <http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/lab> and click on the tab "Water Testing" or call 303-692-3090.

Please be aware that due to the extensive flood area and the varying speeds and directions of groundwater flow, your well may not be a safe source of water for many months after the flood. Wastewater from malfunctioning septic tanks or chemicals seeping into the ground can contaminate the ground water even after the water was tested and found to be safe. You may want to periodically test your well water to ensure the safety of your drinking water.